

PLANTING GUIDE

Prunus tenella Batsch.
species

Russian almond
common name

ND-283, (9006079)
number

Description:

A short, densely suckering shrub. Native to southeastern Europe (western Asia to eastern Siberia). May reach 1.5 meters in height; width can be controlled by competition or cultivation. Leaves are simple, have saw tooth margins, and are lustrous, dark green above and pale beneath. Abundant, attractive pink flowers appear in May and are followed by a hard nut with a fuzzy covering in July.

Purpose: Evaluate this selection for use as the outside row of multi-row farmstead and field windbreaks, Wildlife food and cover, recreational area, beautification, and living snow fence plantings.

Standard of Comparison: 'Scarlet' mongolian cherry, juneberry, and peking cotoneaster.

Site: Best suited to heavy or fine textured soils. Preliminary data indicates excellent adaptation to heavy clay soils where many other species may perform poorly. It is adapted and will persist in areas of southern Canada (hardiness zone ?) .

Site Preparation: Prepare site by plowing or disking at least one year prior to planting to remove perennial grasses and weeds.

Date of Planting: Early spring, as soon as possible after materials have been received (April-May).

Planting Method: Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Soaking roots in water an hour or so prior to planting will increase survival. Holes or furrows should be deep enough to take the full root without bending. If planted in rows where equipment can be used, allow enough room to mow or cultivate for weed control. If not recommended in the Technical Guide, a spacing of five (5) feet in a single row is suggested.

Management: Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first year by cultivation. Selective, approved herbicides provide good weed control after establishment year; follow the instructions on the label. Protect from 2,4-D type sprays, fire, grazing and trampling by livestock.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Long Range Plan for Field Plantings

Species: Prunus ~~tanaka~~ Batsch.

Common Name: Russian almond

Accession Number: **ND-283**, (9006079)

Purpose of Field Plantings: Evaluate this selection for use as the outer row in multi-row farmstead and field windbreaks, single row dense barriers, living snow fences, wildlife food and cover, recreational areas, and beautification plantings.

Literature Review and Background Information: Russian almond is a short, densely suckering shrub that may reach **1.5** meters in height. Width can be controlled by competition or cultivation. Leaves are simple, have saw tooth margins, and are lustrous, dark green above and pale beneath. Abundant, attractive pink flowers appear in May and are followed by a hard nut with a fuzzy covering in July.

Native to southeastern Europe (western Asia to eastern Siberia) first introduced to the United States in **1863**. This accession was received from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in 1954 and has performed well in field evaluation plantings in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Duration of Field Plantings: Ten **(10)** years.

Standard of Comparison: 'Scarlet' mongolian cherry, juneberry, and peking cotoneaster.

Approximate Size of Field Planting: Minimum of **25** trees.

Location of Field Plantings: All MLRAs in North Dakota, **South** Dakota, and Minnesota. Selected sites in Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, and Wyoming.

Site Selection: Best adapted to heavy or fine textured soils. Preliminary data indicates excellent adaptation to heavy clay **soils** where other species perform poorly.

Evaluations: Complete evaluations as required by **PMS** on form SCS-ECS-10, Evaluation of Woody Field Plantings.

Summary Results: Results will be summarized when trials are complete.